

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 822 - SB 920**

March 4, 2017

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires the court, if a juvenile is found delinquent twice due to conduct that would be considered a misdemeanor if committed by an adult, to order the child to be evaluated by a mental health agency or a licensed private practitioner in good standing.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Increase Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$198,100\***

Assumptions:

- Based on information provided by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS), mental health evaluations are currently optional as determined by a juvenile court judge. The proposed legislation would make the evaluations mandatory if a juvenile is found delinquent two times due to conduct that would be considered a misdemeanor if committed by an adult.
- Currently, the costs of these evaluations are paid by the county or local government.
- Franklin County, with a population of 41,129, averages approximately seven of such evaluations per year at a cost of \$350 per evaluation, for a total annual cost of \$2,450 (7 x \$350).
- Assuming that Franklin County's caseload is representative of the statewide caseload and the \$350 cost incurred by Franklin County is representative of the cost to perform mental health evaluations in other jurisdictions of the state, approximately \$396,203  $[(\$2,450 / 41,129) \times 6,651,194 \text{ Tennessee population}]$  is expended on mental health evaluations each year under current law.
- The number of mental health evaluations is estimated to increase by a minimum of 50 percent under the provision of this bill. Therefore, the mandatory recurring increase in local expenditures is estimated to exceed \$198,102  $(\$396,203 \times 50.0\%)$ .

*\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/jem